**Argumentative Writing Prompt**

Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Smartphones, cell phones able to use the Internet, are a common sight in the hands of teenagers. Recently, school staff has looked into the use of smartphones in classrooms. Some say that these are portable computers and valuable learning tools. Others say that cell phones are disruptive and won’t be used responsibly.

Should students be allowed to use smartphones in class? Write a letter to your school Principal in which you take a position on this question. Consider the pros and cons list below along with other evidence you may be aware of, including the attached readings. Use evidence and other details to support your position.

Pros

* Studentsare already using cell phones in class—to send emails, and browse social media sites. Both useful learning activities.
* Successful school programs utilize digital devices in ways that keep kids engaged
* With personal devices, students have more control over their own tools
* Using student smartphones saves schools money on technology

Cons

* Use is class is distracting:
  + 95 percent of students said they regularly sent texts during classroom lessons
  + 94 percent said they browsed social media sites like Facebook
  + 93 % report listening to music in class.
* With personal devices, students have more ability to hide their online activities